



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held January 31, 2006, the Board took the following action:

70-B

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“January 2006 marks the fifth anniversary of the Safe Surrender legislation. The law allows a parent or legal guardian to surrender an infant that is no more than three days old confidentially and without fear of prosecution to any hospital or fire station, as long as the infant shows no signs of abuse. Since the passage of the law 5 years ago, 35 precious lives in this County have been saved, as a result of our efforts to get the message of ‘no shame, no blame, no names’ out to the community. Neighboring counties such as Orange County have also followed our example here in Los Angeles by taking up the standard to protect newborns by becoming Safe Surrender counties as well.

“The Safe Surrender Taskforce I convened back in 2001 has articulated the need to continue to keep the message out there, in order to ensure that babies at risk of being abandoned have a chance at being saved, and that women at risk of doing this and the people who know them have an opportunity to do the right thing.

“This month, State Assemblyman Alberto Torrico has introduced Assembly Bill 1873 (AB 1873) for consideration, which if passed, would help our efforts considerably at the County level to protect newborns.

“The bill would also appropriate \$5,000,000 to the Department of Social Services to conduct a Statewide awareness campaign.

“The bill would also expand the scope of the Safe Surrender provisions to apply to children who are one year of age or younger. While I am recommending that this Board support AB 1873, I am not in favor of this provision.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Went on record in support of AB 1873 (Torrico), legislation which would appropriate \$5,000,000 to the State Department of Social Services to conduct a Statewide awareness campaign of the Safe Surrender provisions, and would expand the scope to apply to children who are one year of age or younger, if amended to maintain the current scope of the Safe Surrender program to infants up to 72 hours of age and allow local Boards of Supervisors to designate Safe Surrender sites; and
2. Designated January 2006 as "Safe Surrender Month" throughout Los Angeles County, to commemorate the passage of the original Safe Haven law in California.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Director of Public Social Services  
Fire Chief

Letter sent to:

State Assemblyman Alberto Torrico